



STATE OF DELAWARE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD.
CANNON BUILDING, SUITE 100
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

TELEPHONE:
FAX:

(302) 736-7500
(302) 739-4849

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Chair and Commissioners

FROM: Lisa B. Driggins, Public Utilities Analyst

Handwritten initials "ABD" inside a hand-drawn circle.

DATE: February 6, 2018

SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARTESIAN WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICES PURSUANT TO 26 DEL. C. § 203C ("DAVIDSON") (FILED DECEMBER 21, 2017)
PSC DOCKET NO. 17-1227

On December 21, 2017, Artesian Water Company, Inc. ("Artesian" or the "Company") submitted an application ("Application") with the Delaware Public Service Commission (the "Commission") seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to provide water services to one parcel of land in Sussex County, Delaware, known as Davidson (the "Proposed Service Area") pursuant to 26 *Del. C.* § 203C(e)(1)b.2.

As required by 26 *Del. C.* § 203C(e)(1)b.2. and the Commission's Regulations Governing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Water Utilities, 26 *Del. Admin. C.* § 2002 (the "Regulations"), the Application contained the following documentation: (1) a copy of a petition signed by all of the landowners of record included in the Proposed Service Area requesting to be included in the Proposed Service Area; (2) a copy of the United States Postal Service forms verifying that the Company sent, via certified mail, a Commission approved notice to all landowners of record of each parcel included in the Proposed Service Area; (3) a list of the County tax map parcel identification numbers of the properties and identification of all landowners of record included in the Proposed Service Area;¹ and (4) a copy of the associated tax map clearly marking the Proposed Service Area. Additionally, the Application contained Artesian's statement that its expansion of service to the Proposed Service Area will comply with the water pressure requirements of 26 *Del. C.*

¹At Staff's request, Artesian submitted a written certification that the Company: (i) reviewed the appropriate tax or land record documents relating to the Proposed Service Area; (ii) confirmed that the landowners identified in the parcel listing are the landowners of record; and (iii) confirmed that the petitions included in the Application have been signed by each landowner of record.

§ 403(a) and (b) and that Artesian is not barred by any of the restrictions set forth in 26 *Del. C.* § 403(c).

In addition to the required notification to all the landowners of record in the Proposed Service Area, Artesian published a notice in The News Journal on December 26, 2017 and the Delaware State News newspaper on December 23, 2017. The notice advised residents of the Application, that the Application may be reviewed at the Commission's office during normal business hours or on the Commission's website, that a hearing on this matter would not be held unless an appropriate request for a hearing was received, and that the property owner may object to or "opt-out" of the Proposed Service Area. To date, no comments regarding the Company or this Application have been received, and no landowners of record included in the Proposed Service Area have objected to the Application or elected to "opt-out" of the Proposed Service Area.

Staff reviewed the Application to ensure compliance with the statutory provisions of 26 *Del. C.* § 203C and the Regulations. No errors or omissions were found. Finally, to determine whether the Commission should deny the requested CPCN as set forth in 26 *Del. C.* § 203C(f), Staff solicited comments from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC"), the Office of the State Fire Marshal ("SFM"), and the Office of Drinking Water of the Division of Public Health ("ODW"). SFM and ODW responded and confirmed they have no issues relating to Artesian's ability to provide safe, adequate, and reliable water services to its existing customers. DNREC did not provide a response, however, the lack of response should not be taken as an indication that DNREC has any issue(s) relating to Artesian's ability to provide safe, adequate, and reliable water services to its customers.

In summary, Artesian has submitted the necessary proof required under 26 *Del. C.* § 203C(e)(1), 203C(e)(1)b., 203C(e)(3), and the Regulations for issuance of a CPCN. In accordance with 26 *Del. C.* § 203C(f), Staff finds no basis for denial and, therefore, respectfully recommends that the Commission grant Artesian a CPCN based on the Application.